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Letter dated 6 August 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 23 July 2007 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, which was circulated as a document of the United Nations, under the symbol A/61/1011-S/2007/456. Although its content does not come as a surprise, its inexcusable assertions compel my Government to respond as a matter of principle.

The Republic of Cyprus, a sovereign, democratic and responsible State, Member of the United Nations is, to say the least, entitled to a minimum of respect and consideration by its powerful neighbour, which claims, incidentally, to be among the guarantors of Cyprus' independence and territorial integrity. Instead, Turkey has used military force against my country, invaded and still occupies more that 37 per cent of its territory and now proceeds with an unprecedented combination of new faits accomplis and threats of further use of force.

It seems that the mere existence of the Republic of Cyprus is considered by Turkey as an obstacle to the latter's pursuit of its geostrategic interests, as Turkey itself peculiarly defines them, and an obstruction to the variable geometry of what it conceives as its "rights" in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Republic of Cyprus, its convictions fortified by the certainty of upholding and defending international legality and the fundamental principles of international relations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, stands solid and firm on its positions of principle and will not be intimidated by Turkey's long-standing gunboat policy, which belongs to another era.

As regards the subject matter of the said letter, my Government has made its position in the letter dated 31 January 2007 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus, which was issued under the symbol A/61/726-S/2007/52. In addition, a letter addressed to you on 25 May 2007 (A/61/931-S/2007/317) is one of many addressed to the United Nations regarding Turkish violations of Cyprus'

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maritime space with the purpose of illegally exploring my country's sovereign natural resources.

The Government of Cyprus has no doubts about its sovereignty over the totality of its territory, its territorial sea and its airspace and/or about its sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone and its continental shelf. Within the framework of exercising such sovereign rights and in compliance with its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as provided in articles 74, 75, 83 and 84 therein, Cyprus is proceeding to the delimitation of those areas with neighbouring countries, where such delimitation is needed under the Convention and is appropriate. In accordance with relevant international law, Turkey has no legal interest in cases of delimitation of areas that are not opposite or adjacent to its coasts and its claim that it has "legitimate" rights in Cypriot waters is incongruous and provocative.

Furthermore, Cyprus' sovereign right to explore and exploit its natural resources located in its exclusive economic zone and/or its continental shelf cannot be questioned under the Convention or general international law. It is indeed in exercising a sovereign right in full conformity with international law that Cyprus is proceeding with international tenders for granting authorizations for the prospecting, exploration and production of hydrocarbons in its exclusive economic zone.

By contrast, Turkey, one of the few States not to have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, refuses to comply with its letter and spirit, though most of its provisions codify customary international law, digressing instead into dubious and unsubstantiated theories that are out of touch with the contemporary world and the development of the law of the sea.

It is ironic for Turkey to maintain that the Government of Cyprus generates tension in the Eastern Mediterranean when Turkey's own actions have repeatedly proven to be the only source of tension and instability in that region. The statement in the above letter that "Turkey is determined to protect its rights and interests in the Eastern Mediterranean", is a barely concealed threat to use force again and is indicative of how much at variance Turkey is with legality and legitimacy in the external behaviour of States.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas **Hadjichrysanthou**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.